

## CLAIMS

1. Interface system for connecting systems, heterogeneous ones where required, together via a data network, wherein the system has interface modules which represent the link between the possibly heterogeneous systems, and the transmission of data takes place on the basis of transactions by means of defined communications stations at the transmitting and receiving ends.
2. Interface system according to claim 1, characterised in that data is only accepted into the receiving system if all the data in a transaction has been recognised as free of errors.
3. Method of connecting systems, heterogeneous ones where required, together via a data network by means of interface modules which represent the link between the possibly heterogeneous systems, characterised in that the data transmission is performed on the basis of transactions by means of defined communications states at the transmitting and receiving ends.
4. Method according to claim 3 characterised in that data is only accepted into the receiving system if all the data in a transaction has been recognised as free of errors.
5. Interface for transmitting useful data on a data network, having:
  - a company- and/or sector-specific configuring object which defines processes,
  - a template object which defines format templates for documents which are used for carrying out business processes defined in the configuring object, and
  - an interface object which assigns destinations on the data network intended for given processes, to act as partners in the processes.

6. Interface according to claim 5, characterised in that by means of the configuring object, logic links are made between goods/services, document templates, products, customers and suppliers.
7. Interface according to claim 5 or 6, characterised in that the configuring object defines which customer may handle which product.
8. Interface according to one of claims 5 to 7, characterised in that the format templates have fields for possible useful data.
9. Interface according to one of claims 5 to 8, characterised in that where this is required by a business process, format templates can be expended by dynamic re-loading.
10. Object-oriented method of transmitting useful data on a data network, having the following steps:
  - definition of processes by means of a company- and/or sector-specific configuring object,
  - definition of format templates by means of a template object, the format templates being used to carry out the business processes defined in the configuring object, and
  - assignment of given destinations on the data network as partners in the process by means of an interface object.
11. Method according to claim 10, characterised in that logic links are made between goods/services, document templates, products, customers and suppliers by means of the configuring object.
12. Method according to claim 10 or 11, characterised in that the configuring object defines which customer may handle which product.

13. Method according to one of claims 10 to 12, characterised in that the format templates have fields for possible useful data.
14. Method according to one of claims 10 to 13, characterised in that where this is required by a business process, format templates can be expended by dynamic re-loading. characterised in that
15. Computer software program, characterised in that it implements a method according to one of claims 3, 4 or 10 to 14 when it is run on a computing means.

0996889 113001